

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANAMA 00013 051521Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 051215Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1754

S E C R E T MANAMA 0013

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : GOB CONCERN OVER BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW

REF : JIDDA 032

: STATE 01955

1. DURING BRIEF INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH GOB FOREIGN MINISTER EVENING DECEMBER 4, HE DEPLORED MEDIA HANDLING OF SECRETARY'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW. DURING ENSUING DISCUSSION HE AGREED THAT SECRETARY'S REMARKS, AND OTHER RECENT U.S. STATEMENTS, SHOULD, IF READ IN CONTEXT, ALLAY PRODUCER GOVERNMENT CONCERNS ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS. HE PERSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT EVEN THE MOST CAREFULLY STATED U.S. CLARIFICATIONS AND DENIAL RE USE OF FORCE TEND TO BE USED BY MEDIA TO KEEP THIS ISSUE ALIVE RATHER THAN KILL IT.

2. COMENT: GOB (NOTABLY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER) HAS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS NOW EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT DANGER OF POLITICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. FOREIGN MINISTER PROFESSES TO DISCOUNT RUMORS THAT U.S. SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING USE OF FORCE AGAINST OIL STATES BUT IS CONCERNED THAT PERSESTENT PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS QUESTION THREATENS TO POISON POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN U.S. AND MAJOR PRODUCING GOVERNMENTS.

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PAGE 02 MANAMA 00013 051521Z

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